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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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RAILROAD EMPLOYES CANNOT BE TRICKED

New York, June 24.—The four railroad brotherhoods of engineers, conductors, firemen and trainmen demand the right to fix their own wages and will not delegate that power to the interstate commerce commission.

This was the feature of the conference between representatives of these workers and railroad managers, last Thursday, when the latter, in refusing the eight-hour day and pay for overtime demand of their freight service employes, suggested that the entire matter be referred to the interstate commerce commission. Coupled with this recommendation, the managers suggested that congress be asked to give the commission any additional powers found necessary. Chairman Garretson of the employes said they did not accept the right of the commission to fix wages, and indicated that there is a difference between the wage rate of an employe and the freight rate of barbed wire or pig iron.

The railroad managers also favored arbitration under the federal law commonly known as the Newlands act. This was declined by the workers, who called attention to the fact that this law is only intended where a tie-up of traffic is threatened, and that as no such condition exists they refused to recognize that method of solving present differences.

The employes indicated that they favor continued conferences and are hopeful that a settlement may be reached through conciliation and mediation. They are not overlooking any move to strengthen their lines, however, and have submitted a statement to their respective memberships, in which strike power is asked.

The workers' opposition to arbitration as a general proposition is based on the failure to secure neutral arbitrators who understand the technical side of railroading and because the railroads have twisted decisions to their advantage. Chairman Garretson of the workers made this charge against the managers. "Arbitrators with the best of intentions have seen the language of their findings construed in a manner they did not intend."

Washington, June 24.—Several newspapers in the middle west have declared that President Gompers is not in sympathy with the efforts of freight train employes to secure an eight-hour day. These stories evidently emanate from the same source, which ignores a lengthy editorial published in the American Federationist, March issue, on this question, in which President Gompers said:

We repeat the hope already expressed that the railroad men's demands may be secured without the stoppage of work even for a moment, but if a strike cannot be avoided, they may count upon the sincerest sympathy, co-operation and support of the rank and file of the American Federation of Labor in their struggle for a glorious triumph."

INJUNCTION DISSOLVED.

Cincinnati, June 24.—The court of appeals has dissolved a permanent injunction against Butchers' union No. 232 and placed the costs against the H. H. Meyer Packing company.

Judge Nippert of the common pleas court issued the injunction. The order restrained strikers from carrying banners which announced that the Meyer company was non-union. Judge Nippert said that labor has the right to organize "to further the interests of the laboring classes," and then enjoined the striking butchers from asking sympathizers to aid them.

W. F. Fox, attorney for the unionists, commenting on the decision said that it does not affirmatively fix the limits to which labor organizations may go, but it does hold that upon the statement of facts in the petition these facts alone will not warrant an injunction.

LABOR LAW A SUCCESS.

Harrisburg, Pa., June 24.—If business during the remainder of the year is as brisk as it was during the first four months, the state insurance fund will be able to declare a dividend, according to officials of the state workmen's insurance board. When the state fund began business, 5,079 employers, with a total of 67,400 workers on their payrolls, had accepted the state insurance plan. This business was almost doubled by April 29, when the books showed that 12,032 employers had insured 117,100 employes in the state fund. It is stated that the demand for state fund insurance is increasing and that the number of policies being written average from 25 to 30 a day.

AMERICAN HARDWARE LEADS.

Boston, June 24.—While some manufacturers are claiming an eight-hour day and high wages place them at a disadvantage with foreign competitors, Dr. E. E. Pratt, of the federal department of commerce, told the National Retail Hardware association that American hardware was superior to hardware of other countries and that the American product possessed the additional merit of costing less.

The federal official used samples of hardware from five foreign countries to prove his point.

CARPENTERS CONTINUE GAINS.

Indianapolis, June 24.—General Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports that the following gains have been made by locals of this craft since last week's statement:

Southbridge, Mass.—Wages increased to 45 cents an hour and a 44-hour week.

Joliet, Ill.—Union shop and an increase of 2½ cents an hour after a 10 weeks' strike.

Denver, Col.—Increased wages 5 cents an hour.

Johnstown, N. Y.—Increased wages from 37½ to 42 cents an hour.

IMMIGRATION WILL INCREASE.

New York, June 24.—The Wall Street Journal, representative financial paper, is not in favor of the Burnett immigration restriction bill, but it agrees with the advocates of this legislation that immigration to this country will increase at the close of the European war.

Last week this paper said: "Just what will be the nature of the immigration resulting from the war is hard to say. There will probably be an enormous increase in immigration to all countries of the western hemisphere."

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

Boston, June 24.—The Boston Journal makes this query in connection with the eight hour demand of train men in the railroad freight service.

"But as this railroad controversy stands now, it appears that the railroads should devote themselves not to showing how liberal railroad wages already are, for that is the affair of the wage earner; but to showing just how and where the great, rich revenues of this busy shipping period are going?"

LAST OF MINERS RELEASED

Walsenberg, Col., June 24.—Eight union miners, connected with what is known as the La Veta case, have been released from the Walsenberg jail on nominal bond by Judge J. C. Wiley.

These are the last of the many miners who have been confined in prison because of charges growing out of the miners' strike. The released strikers have been in jail for two years and seven months and their admittance to bail is a clear indication that state officials have abandoned their savage persecution of organized miners in southern Colorado.

The eight men were arrested because of the shooting of a mine foreman and strike guards, November 8, 1913. It was shown that the latter were in an automobile and opened fire on the strikers. The miners returned the fire and killed four. At the trial they pleaded self-defense and the jury acquitted them in 18 minutes after a trial that lasted two months. The men were immediately arrested on information filed by Attorney General Farrar.

Last March Judge Essex of the Pueblo district court ordered the release of the prisoners, but they were again arrested by Farrar and confined in the Walsenberg jail without trial or opportunity to give bond until released by order of Judge Wiley.

It is believed this incident marks the complete collapse of the coal operators and state officials' plan to "railroad" hundreds of organized miners to the penitentiary. At the present time there is not a single miner in jail and there is not an official in Colorado who seriously believes that the policy of the coal operators, in indicting over 700 miners, can be carried out.

UNIONIST ASSAULTED.

Knoxville, Tenn., June 24.—Organizer Gilmour of the International Association of Machinists was almost fatally assaulted by W. J. Oliver and a crowd of his strike guards on the street in front of the Oliver machine shop. Gilmour, President Lackey of the local Machinists' union and two other members of that organization were in an automobile at the time and when the former began talking he assumed a characteristic position of placing his hands on his hips. Oliver pointed a rifle at him and commanded him not to shoot. The organizer laughingly turned his pockets inside out and assured him he was not armed. Immediately water was thrown on the party from a hose attached to a fire plug in the Oliver plant. President Lackey was almost strangled and had to leave the machine. Gilmour was then dragged from the automobile by the strike thugs and clubbed into insensibility. He was then "arrested" by the police and, although unconscious, held for over an hour before taken to a hospital.

At a mass meeting, attended by 3,000 organized workers and sympathizers, resolutions of condemnation were adopted and these Knoxville citizens are determined that free speech shall prevail. The police were also grilled for their action in this disgraceful proceeding.

LOW WAGES IN PORTO RICO.

San Juan, Porto Rico, June 24.—Justicia, official newspaper of Porto Rican trade unionists, gives this insight into island conditions:

"During the past week the chief of the bureau of labor made several trips around the island with a view of making investigations as to the conditions under which the workers are living and working. Notwithstanding the unprecedented price of sugar in many instances men were found working for practically the same wage that they received when sugar was selling at about half the present price.

"In the mountainous districts where the people are engaged in making hats many families are on the verge of starvation, the workers claiming that they receive so little for their labor they find it impossible to buy the bare necessities of life. Upon investigation a family of five made on an average of 18 hats a week, for which they received $3.50, but after paying $1.75 for the straw the 18 hats only netted the family of five $1.75, 35 cents for a week's work for each member of the family."

BURNS ROUNDED UP.

New York, June 24.—W. J. Burns, the "great" detective, has run afoul of the law.

A few years ago he was the darling of every anti-unionist because of lime light methods which dimmed the glories of a well known citizen who owned a circus and once upon a time declared that "the people want to be fooled."

On this theory, Burns waxed wealthy and fat—and lost his cunning. Planting dictagraphs in union headquarters seemed common place so he raided the office of a well known firm of attorneys, and copied private correspondence. Now the "great" detective has been arrested because he failed to obey the law by first securing a search warrant.

Magistrate McAdoo declared that any one who insisted that no violation of law was committed in this case acknowledges "that the machinery of the law in this state is deficient in protecting the citizen in his fundamental constitutional rights."

AIDING STRIKING TEAMSTERS.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 24.—Cartage companies are surprised at the support organized labor in this city is giving striking teamsters. The Street Car Men's union voted $1,000 to be paid in weekly installments of $150 and assured the strikers that more would be forthcoming if the strike lasted longer than a month. The Thiel detective agency is supplying strikebreakers who are paid $3 a day and board. One of the detectives was arrested and fined on the charge of inciting violence.

The methods employed by these detectives are being given wide publicity by the trade union movement.

TO URGE COMPENSATION.

Chattanooga, Tenn., June 24.—The Central Labor Union has appointed a committee to interest unionists of this state in the question of workmen's compensation and to have such a measure included in the new constitution or written into the statutes of the state.

It is proposed to invite a member of the Ohio workmen's compensation board to tour the state and explain the workings and benefits of the Ohio compensation law.

MUST HAVE WARRANT.

Philadelphia, June 24.—Judge Thompson of the United States district court has ruled that internal revenue agents have no right to trample upon constitutional guarantees of citizens by invading the privacy of their homes.

This decision was made in the case of a tobacco dealer who complained that federal officials seized books and papers without a warrant. The court ordered the papers returned.

Labor's Demands Presented to Democratic Convention

St. Louis, Mo., June 24.—Last week President Gompers, Treasurer Lennon and Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor appeared before the platform committee of the Democratic convention and presented planks in the interest of the men and women of toil identical to those presented to the Republican committee the week previous.

These included:

Pledge to maintain the federal Clayton law which assures workers the legal right of voluntary association and guarantees the right of trial by jury in alleged contempt cases committed outside the presence of courts.

Vigorous enforcement of the seamen's act and the most liberal interpretations of its provisions. Opposition to weakening any section intended to protect seamen and traveling public. It is declared that "American seamen will constitute a trained reserve force in time of national peril," and that conditions should be such as to "induce resourceful, capable, liberty-loving Americans to follow that vocation."

Demand that the immigration and contract labor laws be enforced and so extended as to debar from the United States all persons who cannot read some language.

Industrial education and vocational training in addition to cultural education, on the theory that "national industrial efficiency is not a haphazard occurrence but is the result of carefully considered methods and policies."

The enactment and rigid enforcement of a federal child labor law.

The faithful observance and enforcement of all federal eight-hour laws and their extension to all departments of government.

The enactment of a federal workmen's compensation law.

Laws excluding from interstate commerce the products of convict labor.

Legislation to abolish preventable loss of life and injury to workers in industry and transportation. The creation of a bureau of safety under the department of labor to collect data relative to industrial hazards and devise methods to decrease deaths and injuries in industry.

Opposition to "scientific management" and other speeding up systems in industry.

Extension of the powers and functions of the federal bureau of mines.

Full rights of American citizenship to the people of Porto Rico.

Adequate compensation for all civil service employes and a reasonable minimum wage for all such employes.

A tribunal to which all employes in the competitive civil service may appeal for redress of grievances.

A federal compensation law to apply to all civil service employes.

An equitable retirement law providing for the retirement of superannuated and disabled employes of the civil service.

Employment in the civil service must not impair the employes' right of petition.

Government ownership of telegraphs and telephones.

Equal suffrage.

LABOR PLANKS SECURED.

The platform committee agreed to the following, which was adopted by the convention:

We have lifted human labor from the category of commodities, and have secured to the workingman the right to voluntary association for his protection and welfare. We have protected the rights of the laborer against the unwarranted issuance of writs of injunction, and have guaranted to him the right of trial by jury in cases of alleged contempt proceedings committed outside the presence of the court.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

We hold that the life, health and strength of the men, women and children of the nation are its greatest asset, and that in the conservation of these the federal government, wherever it acts as the employer of labor, should both on its own account and as an example, put into effect the following principles of just employment:

1—A living wage for all employes.

2—A working day not to exceed eight hours, with one day of rest in seven.

3—The adoption of safety appliances and the establishment of thoroughly sanitary conditions of labor.

4—Adequate compensation for industrial accidents.

5—The standards of the "uniform labor law," wherever minors are employed.

6—Such provisions for decency, comfort and health in the employment of women as should be accorded the mothers of the race.

7—An equitable retirement law providing for the retirement of superannuated and disabled employes of the civil service to the end that a higher standard of efficiency may be maintained.

We believe also that the adoption of similar principles should be urged and applied in the legislation of the states with regard to labor within their borders, and that through every possible agency the life and health of the people of the nation should be conserved.

LABOR.

We declare our faith in the seamen's act, passed by the Democratic congress, and we promise our earnest continuance of its enforcement.

We favor the speedy enactment of an effective federal child labor law and the regulation of the shipment of prison-made goods in interstate commerce.

We favor the creation of a federal bureau of safety in the department of labor to gather facts concerning industrial hazards, and to recommend legislation to prevent the maiming and killing of human beings.

We favor the extension of the powers and functions of the federal bureau of mines.

We favor the development upon a systematic scale of the means already begun under the present administration to assist laborers throughout the nation to seek and obtain employment, and the extension by the federal government, by the same assistance and encouragement as is now given to agricultural training.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

We favor a thorough reconsideration of the means and methods by which the federal government handles questions of public health, to the end that human life may be conserved by elimination of loathsome diseases, the improvement of sanitation and the diffusion of a knowledge of disease prevention.

We favor the establishment by the federal government of tuberculosis sanitariums for needy tubercular patients.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

We recommend the extension of the franchise to the women of the country by the states upon the same terms as to men.

TERRITORIES.

We favor granting to the people of Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico the traditional territorial government accorded to all territories of the United States since the beginning of our government, and we believe the officials appointed to administer the goverment of those several territories should be qualified by previous bona fide residence.

THREATEN TO LEAVE CITY.

New York, June 24.—Failing in every effort to induce their locked-out ladies' garment workers to reject unionism and return to work as individuals the employers now announce they will leave New York city.

Trade unionists are interested in knowing what section of the world these manufacturers believe workers will refuse to unite.

President Schlesinger of the International Ladies Garment Workers' union says the employers are bluffing and that they could not be driven away from New York city's ever crowded labor market.

The Morning World makes this comment on the employers' threat:

"The associated cloak and suit manufacturers are threatening to leave the city for localities roundabout which promise them greater freedom in sweating their labor.

"These are the persons who entered into a contract with their workers for two years and then broke it after one year for no reason except to sneak an advantage over the workers in negotiating new terms. These are the persons who were asked by Mayor Mitchel to a peace conference and who insolently refused. These again are the persons whose faithless conduct with their employes fell under the sharp condemnation of a group of eminent economists who had impartially made a study of the situation.

"These persons chose the dull season to break with the workers, and as the busy season comes on without success in starving the latter into submission, they are vexed to the extreme. Hence the threat to move out with their annual business of some $200,000,000."

PERILS OF PARTISANSHIP.

Milwaukee, June 24.—The perils of partisanship were referred to in an address by Daniel H. Grady at the commencement exercises of Marquette university.

"In Washington's farewell address he admonished the American people against the danger of blindly following the party organization," declared the speaker. "The admonition has remained unheeded for more than a century, but today we realize that the best citizen is he who exercises his own judgment and acts in accordance to the dictates of his own conscience, who strives to secure the greatest good for the greatest number without regard to the name of the political party which declares in favor of or in opposition to what he believes to be a beneficial policy."

INSIST ON EIGHT HOURS.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 24.—The anthracite mine conciliation board has handed down its first award under the new eight-hour agreement between the operators and the Mine Workers' union.

Day laborers employed by a coal company charged that they were paid a 7 per cent increase for 10 hours instead of a 3 per cent increase for an eight-hour day. The board sustained the workers, and ordered the company to comply with the agreement.

COURT HAS NEW GLASSES.

Trenton, N. J., June 24.—The supreme court has handed down an unusual decision in the case of Philip Heinz against the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad. Heinz sued the railroad for damages and got a verdict for $9,846. The decision was appealed by the railroad, on the ground that it was excessive. The supreme court sustained the appeal and ordered a new trial. In the second trial the award was $11,300. This verdict was also appealed.

The supreme court now rules the second award was excessive and sustains the first judgment, which it rejected as too large.

JERSEY CARPENTERS CONFER.

Newark, N. J., June 24.—The state branch of the Brotherhood of Carpenters held a well-attended meeting in this city last week. Delegates from all sections of the state reported that working conditions of this craft were being steadily improved through agitation and organization.

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES.

Long Island City, N. Y., June 24.—Shop machinists employed by the Long Island railroad have raised wages 10 per cent and reduced hours from 10 to nine per day.

A. F. OF L. DEDICATION ARRANGEMENTS MADE

Washington, June 24.—At the office of the American Federation of Labor it was learned that more than likely that several thousand trade unionists, representatives of all phases of organized labor, will come to Washington on the Fourth of July for the dedication of the new A. F. of L. office building, and to participate in the ceremonies. There is to be a labor parade early in the morning of July 4. The representatives of organized labor from all over the country, as well as of Washington, will have the American flags and their union banners. There is to be an assembling of the flags and banners and moving pictures taken from them. The President of the United States will deliver the chief address.

Delegations intending to stay over one or more days should communicate at once with the A. F. of L. headquarters, stating the accommodations they desire and the approximate rate they are willing to pay. Every effort is to be put forth to secure the best accommodations at the most reasonable rates.

UNIONS ARE FAVORED— "IF CONDUCTED RIGHT"

Charleston, S. C., June 24.—The Anderson Evening Mail says:

"A labor union is all right, but it must be run with common sense if it is to do anybody any good."

Which is replied to by the Charleston Review as follows:

"The Mail, which has been fighting the organization of the printers of that town, wants its readers to understand that there are no good unions unless the bosses write the by-laws and constitution, select the officers and run the union in the interest of the bosses. Of course, that would be very nice—for the bosses. It would be almost equal to the scheme for a union of the miners of Colorado presented by John D. Rockefeller, jr. Some of these days there will land in Anderson a bunch of printers that will not give in to the bosses so easily, and a bunch that will not leave town until every printshop there is thoroughly organized; and when the bosses discover the benefits they themselves derive from organized labor they will never think of going back to the old way of 'everybody-for-himself-and-the-devil-take-the-hindmost' plan now in vogue."

SOUTHERN SHERIFF SCORED.

Greenville, S. C., June 24.—Sheriff Rector is a candidate for re-election, but is handicapped by his record during the strike of textile workers at the Judson mills, which started last November when operatives were discharged when they joined the Textile Workers' union.

Because the Home Circle called attention to the sheriff's strike activity, the official flippantly referred to Editor Peden as "a union organizer." The newspaper man came back with this retort:

"I have never organized or pretended to organize a union. But, I will add this much regarding his (Rector's) record. If he stayed out of the Judson strike and attended to his business the union would have won the strike. But he did all he could to break the strike, not only put the strikers out of their houses in bad weather, but afterward offered them the pitiful sum of $10 to move off and compromise. And the union people believe the $10 was the Judson Mills company and that Rector played double and a detective for the mills. If he stayed away like J. H. M. Ashley, sheriff of Anderson, did in the Brogon strike, we would have won, too. Rector had no business there, as there was no violence and no disorder was reported."

HEADLIGHTS FOR ENGINES.

Washington, June 24.—Railroad locomotives in road service between sunrise and sunset are required by an interstate commerce commission order to have a headlight sufficiently powerful to enable persons in the locomotive cab to see an object the size of a man a distance of 1,000 feet or more ahead in normal weather conditions.

The order is made applicable to all locomotives put in service after October 16, 1916, and to others given general overhauling before that time. All engines now in service must be equipped with the lights not later than 1920.

TEACHERS FEAR SPOILS METHOD

Chicago, June 24.—By tactics characterized as "monstrously outrageous," the board of education erased the "meritorious service clause" from its rules and in effect threw the whole teaching staff of the Chicago public schools into the arena of political spoils. The resolution was introduced by President Loeb, who was behind the recent resolution that denied teachers the right to join a trade union, and which was later nullified by the courts.

President Loeb ignored pleas of the minority to bear representatives of the local federation of labor and the teachers' federation. Mrs. Mary McMahon, a member of the board, in opposing the rule, said:

"I am absolutely in terror for those teachers who have incurred the enmity of the present board. The teachers, too, will live in terror."

At a mass meeting last Sunday, attended by 4,000 citizens, representing all walks of life, vigorous protests were made against the efforts to make Chicago's public schools the football of politics by abolishing the merit system, in vogue for over 25 years. A permanent public school league, pledged to a long campaign for the establishment of a democratic and efficient public school system, was formed. It was declared the issue presented to Chicago was national in its scope.

Secretary Olander of the state federation of labor, said:

"Heretofore the board had the right to discharge a teacher for unsatisfactory work. The Loeb rule gives it the power to discharge teachers who do satisfactory work—to discharge them for political reasons."

EMPLOYERS RULED BY A FEW.

Butte, Mont., June 24.—Employers agree that it is bad business to sign a blank check, but business men who join the Employers' association of Butte are doing this very same thing.

Under the constitution of this organization "the executive committee shall control the actions of all officers and members upon matters coming within the scope of the expressed purpose of the association."

The executive committee consists of 11 members, a majority of which shall constitute a quorum. The rules can be changed by a two thirds vote, "provided, however, that such amendment shall first have received the approval of five members of the executive committee."

To join this association business men, who talk of "running their own business," are pledged to follow the judgment of six men "upon matters coming within the scope" of these anti-unionists who have already forced several employers to lock out their workers for the purpose of establishing the non-union shop, which they have sugar-coated by calling it "open shop."

CHANGE HEADQUARTERS.

Washington, June 24.—The offices of the Brotherhood of Railway Postal Clerks, affiliated to the A. F. of L., have been transferred from Denver, to 612 Ouray building, this city. Carl Freeman, recently elected secretary-treasurer, succeeds Urban A. Walter, who was compelled to resign because of ill health. The latter was the most active spirit in the formation of the brotherhood and was the first editor of its official organ, the Harpoon.

The new secretary-treasurer will edit the Harpoon and also act as legislative representative for his organization.

CAR COMPANY OPPOSES UNION.

San Francisco, June 24.—The United Railroads company has stirred up a hornet's nest by posting a notice in all barns that any employe found in the company of union organizers or affiliated with any union will be promptly discharged. The local trade union movement has accepted the challenge of this corporation and is preparing to assist the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union in every way possible.

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Holyoke, Mass., June 24.—Teamsters' union No. 198 has signed a two years' contract with coal companies in this city. The union demanded an increase of $2 a week, a reduction in hours from 10 to nine and other betterments. It was finally agreed that the contract include one-half the demands this year and the other half during 1917.

HOW RAILROADS COULD SAVE

Cleveland, June 24.—The four railroad brotherhoods have been denied an eight-hour day in the freight train service by railroad managers, who piously announce that it would cost the public too much. Employes deny this claim and show that the railroads have overlooked the public when they squandered vast sums on salaries for pet officials, on illegal freight rebates to favored shippers and on private cars for presidents and managers and their wives and families.

The railroad employes quote from records to show how moneys have been lost to the public by these practices of managers, who now pretend a high regard for the public when employes demand better conditions.

The latest expose by the employes refers to the Louisville and Nashville railroad which issued in one year 11,805 free passes, involving 4,577,928 miles of travel to legislators, attorneys, newspaper men and other persons not connected with the railroad company. These free passes had a money valuation of over $130,000.

The Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad, during the same period, issued 22,225 free passes, valued at $309,520 and involved 7,133,944 miles of travel.

These figures are taken from the records of the interstate commerce commission, which says:

"There is scarcely a walk in life which is not represented in this procession of recipients of passes, from the federal bench to the local politician and the sheriff who summons the jury. The threads represented by these passes tie thousands of citizens to the carriers through improper relations."

The railroad employes cite these two cases as indicative of practices on other railroads, whose managers are now united in "protecting the public interest." The interstate commerce commission, however, is not swayed by this pretense, for it makes this comment on the free pass evil:

"The lack of morality reflected by the facts here compiled is a menace to the institutions of a free people."

STETSON STRIKE IS OVER.

Philadelphia, June 24.—Although the strike at the Stetson Hat company is over, this arrogant $8,000,000 corporation has been taught several lessons by its workers who were forced on strike, although unorganized. These workers, for the first time, have sensed the power of solidity and the company's promises indicate that it realizes the old days have passed forever.

One of the gains secured is the abolishment of gas complained of by strikers. The company manufactured its own gas and used it in the process of making hats. Employes were often forced to go to hospitals and lose days of work because of this gas. The percentage system will be adjusted, and the company agrees to hear the grievances of its employes.

Many of the strikers have secured other employment and declare they will never be known as Stetson employes until this concern accords its workers the right to bargain collectively and until it is forced to abandon, through the power of trade unionism, working conditions that are not indorsed by thinking men and women.

PLUMBERS' FINE RECORD.

Chicago, June 24.—"After 25 years of the severest jurisdictional conflict that the labor movement can chronicle, all men of our craft are now enrolled with and have become members of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada," writes General Secretary-Treasurer Burke in the Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters' Journal.

This official summarizes the trade movements of this organization from 1899 as follows:

Total number of strikes and lockouts, 1,318; total number won, 1,154; total number compromised, 102; total number lost, 32; total number of men involved, 36,607; total benefits paid from 1903 to May, 1916, $1,285,798; average wage, 1904, $3.20 per day; average wage, 1916, $5 per day; eight hours constitute the day's work; half holiday Saturday throughout the year; in 1889 there were 22 local unions with a membership of 1,800; in 1916 there were 673 local unions with a membership of 44,245.

DEFINES AMERICANISM.

Boston, June 24.—"Americanism," as understood by William B. Wilson, secretary of the federal department of labor, is "a complete knowledge, understanding of, and sympathy with, American manhood and womanhood."

The former union miner gave this definition in his address before more than 300 men and women at a banquet which followed a reception under the auspices of the Central Labor Union. Secretary Wilson opposed compulsory arbitration or other legislation which compels workers to give notice before striking. It was his experience in the coal mines that this rule was only beneficial to the employer.

Speaking of the work that the department of labor is doing in trade disputes, he said that more than 80 per cent of these disputes in which agents of the department have entered, satisfactory settlements have resulted.

TEAMSTERS LOCKED OUT.

Minneapolis, June 24.—Over 1,000 teamsters have been locked out because of union affiliation. Their employers are organized, but deny employer the same right. Many organized building craftsmen refuse to accept material delivered by non-union teamsters and the teaming contractors are most bitter in their denunciation of what they term "unfairness." At an open meeting of the common council unionists protested against the policy of the police. One councilman said the police could be put to better use if they drove out of the city the gunmen and floaters imported by employers.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Pine Bluff, Ark., June 24.—The street car strike in this city came to an end when the company promised to reinstate eight men discharged because they joined the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union. Company officials announce that they have not recognized the union, but the workers seem satisfied with the company's pledge not to discriminate.

The workers say the company has been forced to recognize the union's fighting power.

POLISH BAKERS STRIKE.

Detroit, Mich., June 24.—Nearly 200 Polish bakers, affiliated to the International Union of Bakery and Confectionary Workers, struck to reduce hours and raise wages. About a score of shops have settled with the union.

LOW WAGES A BARRIER TO PERFECT HEALTH

Detroit, Mich., June 24.—At the annual meeting of the American Medical association Surgeon General Blue, United States public health service, said that the lower paid workmen were not receiving sufficient wage to permit the necessarily higher plane of living and surroundings demanded for perfect health and hygienic conditions. He declared that the losses of the economic world through disease were being recognized more and more, and that the physician found poverty, ignorance, intemperance and greed his greatest enemies. Medical education of the public is beginning to have its effect, but a great struggle is still ahead before the public generally would accept all that was required, he said.

Government establishment of model counties and the upbuilding of sanitary towns, in which hygiene should rule supreme and form a model for other communities when the good results of public health became apparent, was advocated by Assistant Surgeon General Rucker, of the public health service.

Speaking on insanity Dr. Richard H. Hutchins, of Ogdensburg, superintendent of the New York state hospital, said the reports of the great increase in insanity, due to the "high tension" of American life of today, was a myth. He said that 25 years of observation had convinced him that "if there is any increase in insanity among Americans it is very small, and that the greater proportion of insanity is found among foreign-born residents." The speaker declared that insanity is not hereditary in the true sense of the word, as has long been the belief, and that it is subject to preventative measures, just as tuberculosis is.

Dr. Helen Sumner, of the children's bureau, federal department of labor, urged that physicians demand scientific data on child labor.

"We talk of preparedness," she said, "but the greatest preparedness will be to see to it that we raise healthy, normal citizens, generation after generation, who will be able to pass the army examination if needed by their country."

REAL PREPAREDNESS.

San Francisco, June 24.—"The average worker in New York's great cloak and suit industry is out of work for more than half the year," says the Bulletin, in an editorial entitled "The Enemy Within the Gates."

"For the 52 weeks of the year during which he must live, whether he can get work or not, his average income is $11. The women workers must live on about $6 a week, if they are to balance their accounts. Government investigators found health standards very low among these workers. Only 2 per cent—surely a small percentage in a city where is centered the medical knowledge of the United States—were free from physical defects or diseases. Tuberculosis was more familiar than good health; and the worst-paid workers suffered most often from this disease. The homes of the garment workers were dark, unsanitary rooms, with as many as seven people in each one; although the rent paid by many families was as high as would be charged in our part of the world for a comfortable suburban bungalow. The garment workers have a union; the employers are now trying to destroy it, so closing that means of approach toward better working conditions.

"It is significant that the New York financiers should be so noisily in favor of military and naval preparedness, and not worry at all, as far as anyone can tell, over this appalling illustration of the fatal unpreparedness of low wages, slums and disease."

EMPLOYERS REJECT AWARD.

Hamilton, Ontario, June 24.—Employers of machinists have refused to accept the 50-hour week award of the royal commission, and 2,000 machinists and toolmakers employed on war munitions have suspended work.

The Employers' Association of Hamilton is running large advertisements in the daily press against "paid agitators" who are charged with fomenting this trouble. According to the employers, their machinists and toolmakers were happy and contented under the driving strain of a 50-hour day. The question of reducing hours never entered their minds until the serpent, in the form of a "paid agitator," came in their midst.

The Hamilton Herald takes the employers to task for their senseless fulminations and shows that citizens having no connection with organized labor encouraged these metal workers.

Trade unionists are calling attention to the recent report of a committee appointed by the English government to investigate conditions of workers in munitions plants. This committee declared in favor of an eight-hour day and objected to long hours on the ground that it was injurious to the worker and that it was false economy.

STOCK HELD BY BROKERS.

New York, June 24.—It is stated in Wall street that from April 1, 1915, to April 1, 1916, the number of United States Steel Corporation common stockholders of record dropped from 36,825 to 31,511, or over [illegible] per cent. This is the smallest number of common shareholders in many years.

This information does not sustain the claim that the steel trust's stock is being purchased by the employes, thereby "settling" the differences between capitalists and laborers.

It is also claimed that 80 per cent of steel common is now held by brokerage houses. The trust would create the impression that this stock nestles in the humble homes of laborers, working 11, 12 and 13 hours a day, and who are partners in this great concern.

UNIONISTS LOCKED OUT.

Trenton, N. J., June 24.—Members of Carriage, Wagon and Automobile Workers' union No. 3, employed by the Fitzgibbon & Crisp company were notified that if they remained in the union they would be paid off in full. These workers made no demands, and every member of the union, except one, voted to retain his union membership.

PIANO MOVERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., June 24.—Piano Movers' union, No. 37, affiliated to the Brotherhood of Teamsters, had suspended work when their new agreement was rejected by employers. In the afternoon of the same day the employers met the union, signed the agreement and increased wages $1 a week.

LONGSHOREMEN GAIN.

Boston, June 24.—Longshoremen's union No. 97 announces that agreements have been signed with the Savannah line, Clyde line, United Fruit, Maine coast line and the Plant line. A strike for higher wages against the Merchants & Miners' Transportation company is on, and about 300 strikers have joined the union.